

Lewisham SACRE

annual report

January 2016 - December 2016



**Lewisham Standing Advisory Council on Religious
Education**

Contact names and addresses

<p>Chair of the SACRE Dinah Griffiths</p> <p>Deputy Chair of the SACRE Shaun Burns</p> <p>Chair of the Agreed Syllabus Conference Cllr David Britton</p> <p>Deputy Chair of the Agreed Syllabus Conference Rev Juliet Donnelly</p> <p><i>All may be contacted through the School Improvement Officer</i></p>	<p>Clerk to the SACRE</p> <p>Minuting clerk Stephen Sealy</p>
<p>Head of Standards & Achievement 2015</p> <p>Kate Bond Children & Young People, Lewisham. 5th Floor, Laurence House. 1, Catford Road, CATFORD, London. SE6 4RU</p> <p>Email : Kate.bond@lewisham.gov.uk</p>	<p>School Improvement Officer for RE and Community Cohesion</p> <p>Denise Chaplin Children & Young People, Lewisham. 3rd Floor, Laurence House. 1, Catford Road, Catford, London. SE6 4RU</p> <p>Email: denise.chaplin@lewisham.gov.uk</p>

Lewisham SACRE is a member of the National Association of SACREs

<http://www.nasacre.org.uk/>



The Lewisham Agreed Syllabus for religious education may be found on:

<http://webfronter.com/lewisham/religiouseducationcommunity/>

Information about RE and the SACRE can be located on:

<http://www.lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/education/schools/curriculum/Pages/Religious-education.aspx>

and

<http://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CId=341&Year=0>

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1 Overview

SACRE in 2016

9 th March 2016	Lewisham Islamic Centre
10 th May 2016	London Sivan Kovil
13 th September 2016	Good Shepherd Church, Lee
13 th December 2016	Emmanuel Pentecostal Church

Lewisham Agreed Syllabus Conference in 2016

25 th February 2016	St John Baptist C of E School,
13 th September 2016	Good Shepherd Church, Lee
7 th November 2016	Emmanuel Pentecostal Church
24 th November – KS3 working group	London Sivan Kovil

Training for new and inexperienced SACRE members in 2016 (shared with Greenwich and Lambeth SACREs)

23 rd February 2016	Catford Civic Suite
18 th July 2016	Catford Civic Suite
21 st September 2016	Catford and Bromley Synagogue

This year Dinah Griffiths was again elected by SACRE members to be Chair of Lewisham SACRE and Shaun Burns was elected Vice Chair. During the year Cllr David Britton was elected as Chair of the Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC) and Rev Juliet Donnelly as Vice Chair of the ASC.

Despite this being a time of change and a time of austerity both nationally and locally, SACRE members continued to engage in many activities to support their work and to support each other. As well as attending the full SACRE meetings this year, members were involved in working group and individual meetings, including planning and supporting local events for Holocaust Memorial Day. Members heard about, supported and attended each other's faith and belief events and participated in interesting dialogue and debate. For example they heard about and participated in the Peace Walk, the 'Feed the homeless' initiative at the mosque and also the Mosque Open Day.

Meetings were held in a range of venues, these often enable members of SACRE to act as hosts and to support SACRE's budget limitations. Visits to local schools provide the opportunity to discuss the varied provision offered around the Borough and to talk about RE in each school. When SACRE meetings are held in schools or faith venues, the hosts share

something about their work and community. This helps SACRE members to understand more about local schools or faith communities and how these can connect with each other to enhance delivery of quality RE.

1.1 Foreword by the Vice Chair of Lewisham SACRE

I am writing this report as Vice Chair of Lewisham SACRE on behalf of our Chair, Dinah Griffiths, who is unwell at the time of writing. We wish her well in her health and our thoughts and, where appropriate, prayers are with her during this troubling time.

I would particularly like to record our thanks to Dinah for her steering of SACRE as Chair throughout 2016 and for all the hard work that she has put into this.

Indeed during the past year a number of different members of SACRE have had a tough time personally through illnesses or bereavements, etc. but SACRE members and the SACRE as a whole have resiliently carried on to carry out their roles and I thank them and all SACRE members for their commitment and dedicated work on Lewisham SACRE.

We have welcomed a number of new members this year who are already making valuable contributions to SACRE's work, this includes our Minuting Clerk to SACRE, Stephen Sealy, who consistently manages to minute our meetings with precision and detail! Our nearly full membership ensures that Lewisham SACRE is representative of the community of Lewisham, so rich in diversity.

I would also like to thank all the members of SACRE who have faithfully stayed the course and continue to serve on SACRE, it is very important to have continuity as well as new members.

Thank you also to all the different communities who have been generous in offering us accommodation for our meetings.

Special thanks must go to Denise Chaplin, the School Improvement Officer for Religious Education and Community Cohesion who advises SACRE. She has tirelessly advised the committee bringing her expertise and wisdom to inform and deepen the group's thinking and deliberations.

Finally, many thanks to all of you who have supported our work in so many ways.

As you will read, it has been a busy year for SACRE locally, not least because we are currently working on the statutory review of the locally Agreed Syllabus for RE.

Another important part of Lewisham SACRE's responsibility is as custodians of the resources from the South London MultiFaith and MultiCultural Resources Centre. SACRE has continued to look after the resources with the help of faith communities, schools and other local organisations in the hope and with the aim of bringing these back together as one resource collection that can be used to support Religious Education within our borough along with neighbouring boroughs as well.

Unfortunately the proposed relocation of the centre in a new multi-faith and multicultural Centre as part of the New Bermondsey scheme now looks unlikely and so during next year our MultiFaith and MultiCultural Resources Centre Steering Group will continue to look to secure a safe home for these precious resources that we have inherited.

As Dinah wrote previously, "For me, events occurring throughout the past year have emphasised the value and importance of Religious Education. By providing a curriculum which helps children to understand and to respect the beliefs of their friends and neighbours and to value the diversity of those beliefs, we have a chance to contribute to bringing about change in a society which often seems fraught with danger and hostility."

With all good wishes,

Shaun Burns

Vice Chair, Lewisham SACRE.

2. Religious Education

2.1 Locally Agreed Syllabus “Learning together through faiths”

The Lewisham Agreed Syllabus was launched on 30th June 2009. This year an Agreed Syllabus Conference has been working to review the Agreed Syllabus. Cllr David Britton was elected as Chair of the Agreed Syllabus Conference and Rev Juliet Donnelly as Vice Chair.

2.1.2 Monitoring

The SACRE remains concerned about how to monitor both the quality of RE in Lewisham schools and the implementation of the Agreed Syllabus. SACRE members continue to investigate ways of monitoring RE that will be useful to teachers and to SACRE. Conversations with teachers about the current Agreed Syllabus will enable SACRE members to know more about how the syllabus is working and where adjustments and revisions will be needed. A website review was undertaken and is described in the collective worship section of this report.

2.2 Standards in Religious Education

2.2.1 Locally devised measures of pupils' attainment: Assessment Guidance

Lewisham Agreed Syllabus contains Assessment guidance that utilises the old 9-level scale of attainment from the non-statutory National Framework for Religious education. It also incorporates a modification of the ‘P’ scales for use with children achieving below level 1 mainly in special schools and also incorporates a set of ‘pupil – speak’ levels developed by the National Association of Teachers of RE (NATRE). Levels have been removed from all other subjects by the government so as part of the Syllabus review this advice is being reviewed for a ‘post level’ curriculum.

2.2 Lewisham Religious Studies Performance in 2016

1 Introduction

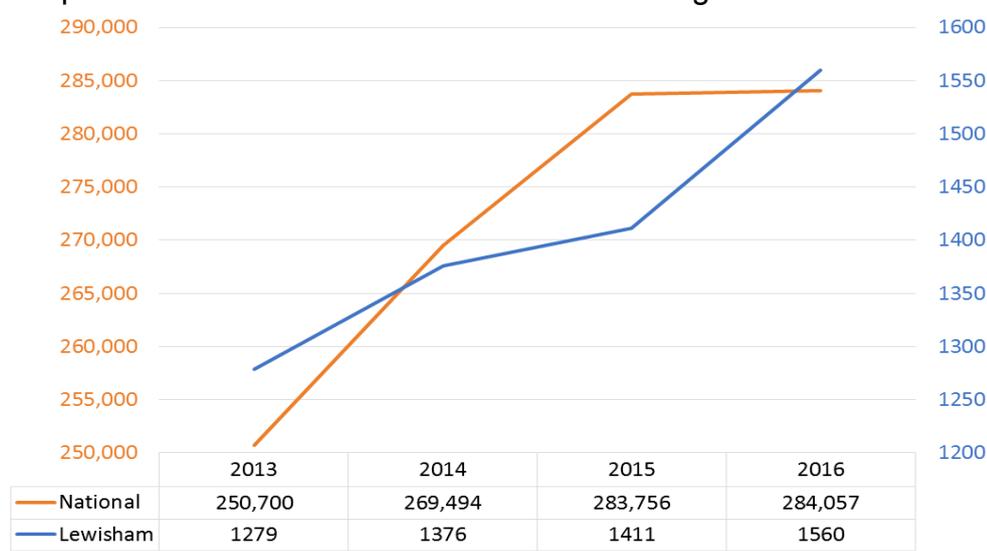
1.1 Lewisham SACRE conducts an annual review of GCSE and A Level religious studies examination entries and outcomes. This year a detailed report on the outcomes in Lewisham schools was received by SACRE and discussed. The report (Appendix C) was circulated to schools to ensure the data was accurate.

1.2 All National figures in the report are for England and Wales only and are sourced from the Joint Council for Qualifications examination reports.

2 GCSE Religious Studies

2.1 There has been a 0.1% increase in religious studies GCSE entries nationally in 2016 and a 10.6% increase in local entries (from 1,411 in 2015 to 1560 in 2016). Over the period 2013 to 2016 the national entries have increased by only 13.3%, whereas Lewisham has increased by 22.2%.

Graph 1 National and local entries in GCSE Religious Studies 2013- 2016



2.2 RS GCSE A* - C performance is in line with 2015 performance and is below national performance by 1.4% points, but this gap is practically half what it was in 2015. Locally performance in RS significantly exceeds performance in key humanities subjects, but this year is below English (refer Table 4).

A more detailed report including short course GCSE and A level examination results is placed in the Appendices. Discussions with schools about future planning for RE continue into the new year.

2.3 Teaching

2.3.1 Methods of teaching - training

National information about courses organised, for example by the National Association of Teachers of RE, CEM, exam Boards, the Board of Deputies of British Jews and the

National Association of Teachers of RE have been circulated to schools

2.3.2 Methods of teaching - The choice of teaching materials

During the year schools were also sent information about national resources, courses particularly targeted at new GCSE Specifications and research opportunities for teachers.

2.3.1 The Multifaith and Multicultural Resources Centre

The extensive collection of RE artefacts, resources and books had been previously accommodated in the Teachers' centre. When the Teachers' Centre was closed SACRE had a very short window to help Denise to save these items before they were disposed of, possibly confined to a skip. The committee has struggled to accommodate them locally, but had been promised that the New Bermondsey project (Formerly Surrey Canal Sporting Village) would accommodate them as part of their multifaith centre. It appeared that this opportunity may have fallen through and at various points in the year the SACRE considered what alternatives they have. The steering group continues to meet into the new year.

2.4 Other Information

2.4.1 Complaints about RE

No formal complaints about RE in Lewisham schools have been presented to the SACRE this year.

2.4.2 Membership

This year, following a very successful recruitment drive supported by several SACRE members, we end the year with only 3 vacancies. This is a huge success and has enabled SACRE to consider wider opinions and to know more about the faith and belief communities in the LA. Training for new members has been provided on 3 occasions during the year.

3.1 3. Collective Worship

3.2 Advice

The SACRE's Advice on Collective Worship was updated in 2014.

3.2 Determinations

No schools applied for a Determination this year

3.3 Monitoring Collective Worship & Spiritual Development

Part of SACRE's role is to monitor the quality of Collective Worship in Lewisham schools. During the year, the SACRE have remained concerned that the Ofsted inspection reports in respect of collective worship and Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development do not give them information for monitoring standards.

The SACRE have also taken an interest in the British Values agenda and its link with SMSC, however they have expressed concern regarding the impact of the focus of the Prevent agenda on the Muslim community. Training for school Governors in the provision for promoting Fundamental British Values within provision for pupils' smsc development was again provided on two occasions during the year in consultation with the Prevent Officer.

In March SACRE discussed a report on the key points from Ofsted reports for the community schools inspected in 2015. These were two infant schools, two special schools, two primary schools and an Academy.

The report identified all that was said about SMSC and collective worship. SACRE appreciated that the comments had little to offer them in relation to having a sense of the experiences offered at each school. Some statements were peculiar; an example being an overall criticism about a school's smsc while also stating that the collective worship was good. Only one report directly mentioned collective worship, but it couldn't effectively be used to monitor provision.

SACRE decided that as by law schools are required to have their curriculum on offer on their website, they would use a proforma for recording findings from the websites in relation to RE and Collective Worship. During the year this was continued with little real success apart from revealing that few schools made any mention of the parental right of withdrawal from RE or Collective worship on their websites and advice was prepared for schools to point this out that would be circulated after Christmas 2016. The proforma itself was circulated to schools, encouraging them to engage in the activity themselves to consider how they are promoting their curriculum to all partners and parties.

SACRE's advice on monitoring smsc provision was updated last year, circulated to

schools and is posted on Lewisham website.

3.4 Other information - Complaints

There have been no complaints about collective worship in Lewisham schools this year.

4. Links with other agencies

4.1 National

Information from a number of contacts and bodies enables the SACRE to keep abreast of national initiatives and to be involved in developments.

4.1.1 The Association of RE Inspectors, Advisers and Consultants (AREIAC)

The School Improvement Officer supporting the SACRE is a member of AREIAC; information from this body informs SACRE's work.

4.1.2 The National Association of SACREs (NASACRE)

Lewisham SACRE is also a member of the National Association of SACREs and its Adviser is on the Executive of that body. Two SACRE members attended the conference.

NASACRE AGM and Annual Conference 2016 'Shaping the Future' - held in Central Hall Westminster on May 17th.

Speakers:

The Rt Hon Baroness Elizabeth Butler-Sloss GBE, formerly President of the Family Division of the High Court was the first female Lord Justice of Appeal and until 2004, was the highest-ranking female judge in the United Kingdom. She chaired many high profile enquiries and inquests and served as Chair for the recently published Commission on Religion and Belief in British Public Life.

Professor Adam Dinham is Professor of Faith and Public Policy at Goldsmiths, University of London. He is also Chair of the British Sociological Association Sociology of Religion Study Group (Socrel), Professor of Religious Literacy, Diakonhjemmet University College, Oslo, Norway and Honorary Stephenson Professor of Leadership, Religion & Society, Sheffield Institute for Interdisciplinary Biblical Studies, Sheffield University, UK. With

Martha Shaw, Professor Dinham is the co-author of RE for REal: The future of teaching and learning about belief.

Presentations can be found on the NASACRE Website:

<http://www.nasacre.org.uk/conference-and-agm/2016/2016-materials>

4.1.3 The RE Council of England and Wales (REC)

The work of the REC has been disseminated throughout the year to inform SACRE, faith communities and local schools.

4.2 Local

SACRE members have links with local schools and faith communities. SACRE is represented on the local Holocaust Memorial Day planning group.

5. SACRE Arrangements

5.1 Support

The SACRE is supported by a part time School Improvement Officer. This year minutes have been taken by a minuting clerk whilst other clerking responsibilities have been covered by the RE Adviser and the Business support team in Lewisham. The London Borough of Lewisham meets costs for these posts and also provides a budget for the revision of the Agreed Syllabus.

The SACRE has a limited budget to cover printing, stationery and minor administrative costs as well as spending on initiatives to support RE and collective worship. The budget is monitored regularly.

5.2 Induction arrangements for new members

SACRE members are concerned to ensure that new members can understand SACRE's work and participate actively as soon as possible. Training sessions have been provided three times this year for new or inexperienced members.

6. Other areas of work

6.1 Holocaust Memorial Day

In March SACRE members discussed the local Holocaust Memorial Day event held on 24th January 2016 at the Rivoli Ballroom.

This was a fresh way of marking this event and had replaced the pattern that the planning committee had organised for several years on two different sites. Although the events included elements from the Jewish minister, it was not purely focussing on the Jewish community. St Mary Magdalene and Gordonbrock schools, LESOCO, Bonus Pastor Catholic College and Catford and Bromley Synagogues young people were among those who took part.

SACRE's Jewish representatives commended Lewisham Council whose theatre production manager had visited schools and has now produced a workshop that can be used in more schools. The organisers have produced a DVD for primary schools featuring an interview with Leanie Seigal (who was on the kinder transport at the age of seven) with a theme focussing on anti-bullying.

A Secondary school DVD had also been produced including an interview with Rachel Levy, who had been selected for the gas chamber during the Holocaust but somehow eluded this and now, despite failing health, represents a rare opportunity for schools to personally meet a Holocaust survivor.

SACRE members commented on how moving the event had been and SACRE continues to be represented on the organising group.

6.2 SACRE Constitution

The SACRE's constitution is published on Lewisham's website.

6.3 Ramadan Advice to Schools

SACRE members were extremely concerned about the impact that fasting could have during long summer days on pupils' exam and tests. In March SACRE were informed that their advice had been issued to schools which encourages schools to support pupils and to have conversations with parents to ensure that the health and future life chances of

pupils are considered alongside their religious observance. This has been made available to the Muslim Community especially young people and their parents, as well as Lewisham schools.

6.4 A new settlement for RE

In their March meeting SACRE considered in depth the Rt. Hon. Charles Clarke and Linda Woodhead's Report, *A New Settlement for RE*, which had previously been circulated to members. The authors had asked for further feedback on the report.

SACRE did not consider the future of faith schools and focussed their discussion on providing comments on what the Report had said about RE, Collective Worship and SACREs.

The group initially divided into groups with each group discussing and then reporting back on assigned bullet-points on pages 5 and 6 of the NASACRE Briefing document. The following responses were discussed in some depth and later sent via NASACRE to Charles Clarke and Linda Woodhead.

Collective Worship:

Q: How would the government ensure that individual schools and academies would take this new arrangement seriously if they are not, according to the report, taking the current settlement seriously?

Main Points:

SACRE agreed it is probable that collective worship isn't being provided daily in many schools but they have no clear evidence.

While the report reflects what is currently happening, it fails to give anything back; it needs to communicate clearly what improvement looks like.

Schools are letting children down by not giving them an opportunity to reflect on their place in the world.

There was some discussion about what an act of collective worship looked like and there was a general exchange on the relationship between assemblies and acts of collective worship.

As background to the discussion, SACRE were reminded that the Government had provided non-statutory guidance on this in 1994 but that it had never defined what good quality Collective Worship looked like.

Concerns and comments:

- The words collective worship make people think children are being asked to pray to someone. The phrase 'collective worship' is misleading to parents and faith and belief communities. SACRE were concerned that some school children may have been asked to pray as if members of the Christian faith when that should not be the expectation.
- This is of concern in case young people are expected to pray as if they belonged to a (different) religion.
- The key thing is how school worship is defined.
- Confusion in society and schools about the difference between collective and corporate worship is unhelpful.
- Lewisham SACRE, like many others had produced advice on Collective Worship in the past in which it had explained the word 'worship' had its roots in a word (worth-scip) meaning worthy, and had suggested that this meaning be emphasised.
- Effective worship would enable both a secular child and religious child to learn to respond and reflect on what was said. Skill in doing this means no one's faith being compromised.
- Church of England members reported that their schools have daily acts of collective worship. One Headteacher said he felt it was one of the most meaningful times of the day, one he enjoyed leading.

- Several members agreed that they see 'worship' as being a religious act and so they expressed preference for the word 'reflection'.
- Collective worship was previously inspected by Ofsted, albeit more prescriptively by some than by others. However a positive outcome of the inspection focus was that it made schools consider how CW could be a positive part of the school day and many more schools tried to make it a good experience and attended inservice training.
- One problem is schools' autonomy; it is hard to know what is happening.
- Long standing members recalled a school being 'failed' in their inspection owing to their being no "awe and wonder" in their worship. A lot of SACRE's time had been spent in the past writing to the Chief Inspector of schools to complain about Ofsted reports where there were inspectors expecting to see prayer in the Christian tradition and when it was not provided had criticised the schools.
- Assembly is different from an act of collective worship.
- Such times can be precious It was suggested that it's an existential experience, the essence of which is reflecting on something outside of oneself.
- Worship of the type found in schools with a religious character isn't appropriate in non-faith schools. A CofE Head remarked that when he has held assemblies incorporating time for reflection these have differed from how he has led worship in faith schools. He is comfortable inviting children to pray in a Christian school but felt it would be wrong to do this in a non-faith school.
- Political officials should not develop national guidance.
- Resources and training are essential for Collective Worship to be delivered in a way that doesn't threaten anyone and is a meaningful, quality experience.

- SACRE members wondered whether it isn't a high enough priority for head-teachers to engage with.
- Christian members highlighted the fact that parents retain a right to withdraw their child but it was commented that doing so might thwart fruitful dialogue on the topic.
- If advice "got this absolutely right" it wouldn't be necessary for any child to be withdrawn.

Agreed syllabuses

Concerns and comments:

- These should contain some flexibility and suggest a template which schools could tailor to local needs, based on the characteristics of their school, or local determination with a national framework.
- Government ministers deciding what was important would be better avoided.
- A SACRE role in supporting syllabuses in schools is important.
- The expert personnel representing the groups devising a 'national syllabus' must demonstrate that they are genuinely representative of their communities.
- Such a body being driven by people invited to attend by friends gives rise to the possibility of certain ideologies being trumpeted.
- Buddhist rep added that even within the Buddhist community they have struggled to identify people to fully represent the faith.
- A national syllabus would have to be written so that it doesn't say "all" Humanists/ Muslims etc. but rather makes it clear that there is diversity within these and other groups.

SACREs

Concerns and comments:

- Both Ofsted and the local authority would need to hold particular duties for this function to work effectively.
- There need to be a better structure in place.
- Roles need defining if SACREs are to exist when LAs lose their strength.

6.5 Religious Literacy and the APPG call for evidence

In May SACRE discussed the All Party Parliamentary Group's enquiry into how religious literacy could be improved, not just in schools but the in the workplace and across society. The APPG had posed six questions for which a response under 1500 words was requested. This had been circulated to SACRE members between meetings. The RE Adviser and some other SACRE members had submitted response which had been shared with members.

The RE Adviser had subsequently been invited to do an oral response to the APPG. Although the setting was more formal that she'd been led to expect, she had shared her view that religious literacy was vital for all and began with good RE in schools. She had expressed her concerns that elements of the current political climate were leading to the victimisation of 'difference' and a culture of fear; directly challenging the diversity of cultural experience that she had found so enriching.

She had spoken about the challenges for local authorities such as Lewisham and used the phrase 'respectful disagreement' as a cornerstone for Lewisham's approach to pupils learning about faiths and beliefs different from their own. She said SACRE modelled this approach extremely well.

Her personal desire was for a RE core for every school to follow; adding how scary it would be if the nettle of religious literacy wasn't grasped, particularly in this political

climate. She emphasised that in saying this she wasn't advocating for a nationally agreed curriculum. During the year SACRE continued to be interested and informed and updated on the topic of Religious Literacy.

6.6 Syrian Refugees in Lewisham

In December Nicola Marven (International Partnerships and Projects Officer) attended SACRE to ask the SACRE members to support this initiative. She delivered an update on Lewisham's Syrian Vulnerable Person resettlement scheme and explained that the remit of supporting migrants was no one department's within the Local Authority but that as an officer who did a lot of work in twinning towns, she had been matched with this initiative to draw work together.

SACRE reflected on the background to the Syrian conflict, which began in 2011, since when 10 million people had been forced to flee their homes. The Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme was launched with the intention for the UK to resettle 20,000 refugees. So far 7 London boroughs had committed to get involved, the seventh being Lewisham which had initially committed to take ten families of particularly vulnerable people in the first instance.

The process was explained to members and that the first families were expected to be housed in February 2017 with the following tranche of families in April and then June. SACRE members were told there was a need for Arabic or Kurdish interpretation/translation services along with other support. SACRE members engaged with the project with several committing to link with the initiative outside the meeting.

7. Appendices

Appendix A

MEMBERSHIP OF LEWISHAM SACRE in this reporting year.

Representing	Name	Other info	Sponsoring body
Baha'i	Dr. Mehdi Dabestani		National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is, nsa@bahai.org.uk
Buddhism	David Hutchens	<i>Longchen Foundation on Network of Buddhist orgs</i>	The Buddhist Society, info@thebuddhistsociety.org
Free Church (Assemblies of God)	Pastor Nick Hughes	Emmanuel Church, Lee High Road	Sabina Williams, Administrator, SACRE & LA Representatives; The Free Churches Group, Churches Together in England sabina.williams@freechurches.org.uk
Free Church (Assemblies of God) <i>substitute</i>	Jeronne Rudder	Emmanuel Church	Sabina Williams as above
Free Church (Baptist)	Rev Carol Bostridge	COO Lewisham Foodbank	London Baptist Association
Free Churches (URC)	Rev Raymond Singh		Derrick Dzandu-HedidorURCSyn synodclerk@urcsouthern.org.uk
Hinduism	Vallipuram Bala	London Sivan Kovil, Lewisham	Downham Tamil Association
Humanism	Luke Donnellan	British Humanist Association	British Humanist Association 39 Moreland Street, London EC1V 8BB
Independent Evangelical	Nigel Desborough	FHCC	
Islam	Mohammed Barrie	Headteacher Olive Tree School	Lewisham Islamic Centre
Islam	Sarwoar Ahmed	Principal Young Muslim Academy	Lewisham Islamic Centre
Judaism	Gerald Rose	Warden, Catford & Bromley Synagogue	The Board of Deputies of British Jews
Judaism	Joan Goldberg		The Board of Deputies of British Jews As above
Pentecostal	Juliet Campbell		Lee New Testament Church of God
Pentecostal	Layo Afuape	Parish Pastor	RCCG Great Beauty Tabernacle Catford
Pentecostal <i>substitute</i>	Cheryl Abbam		RCCG Great Beauty Tabernacle Catford
Roman Catholic	Rt. Rev. Monsignor Nicholas Rothon		RC Commission for Schools & Colleges,
Sikhism	Gurbakhsh Singh Garcha		Network of Sikh Organisations Lord Inderjit Singh, CBE
C of E Diocesan Board	Shaun Burns (Deputy Chair)	Diocesan RE Adviser (Primary)	Southwark Diocesan Board of Education,
C of E teacher secondary	Vacant –		Southwark Diocesan Board of Education,

C of E teacher Primary	John Goodey	St John the Baptist CE Primary School,	Southwark Diocesan Board of Education,
C of E Governor	Gail Exon		Southwark Diocesan Board of Education,
C of E Minister	Revd. Juliet Donnelly	Chaplain. Trinity C of E School	Southwark Diocesan Board of Education,
ATL	Kim Knappett		ATL
NUT	Karen Hansen.	All Saints C of E Primary	Martin Powell-Davies Lewisham NUT
Academy / Free School	Vacant		
NUT	Claire Adams	Trinity C of E School,	Martin Powell-Davies Lewisham NUT
NAS/UWT	Pamela Phillips	Launcelot Primary	Kathy Duggan Kathy.duggan@exec.nasuwt.org.uk
Lewisham Headteachers & Deputies	Judith Purkiss	Rushey Green School	Lewisham Heads Consultative
Group D			
LA members	Councillor Jacq Paschoud	Labour Group	Governance
	Councillor David Britton	Labour Group	Governance
	Councillor Hilary Moore	Labour Group	Governance
Primary School Governors	Dinah Griffiths (Chair)	Childeric School Governor,	Governors Forum
Sec' School Governors	Vacant		
Representative of Executive Director of Education	Kate Bond		

Other	
Young Mayor Team	C/o Katy Brown & Malcolm Ball
Prevent Officer	Martin Gormlie
RE School Improvement Officer	Denise Chaplin
SACRE Minute Clerk	Stephen Sealy

Appendix B

GCSE Summer 2016 – Statement from NATRE

The number of pupils in England and Wales taking the GCSE Religious Studies full course is at its highest since 2002. There were 284,057 entries, up 0.1% on figures for 2015. This increase is particularly impressive given an overall fall in full course GCSE entries across all subjects of 0.5%. This shows that the full course in Religious Studies is bucking the trend.

The increase in entries for Religious Studies has been achieved despite the subject having been excluded from the EBacc performance measure. This means that the increase in entries has been due to the popularity of the subject with pupils and the desirability of the qualification, rather than as the response to incentives created by government policy.

The increase in entries for the full course GCSE parallels the increase in A level entries which are up by 6.8% this year compared with 2015.

However, there has been a drop in the number of entries for the short course GCSE in Religious Studies. There were 22.9% fewer entries in England for the short course GCSE in RS than there were in 2015. This represents a continuation of a steep decline in entries for the short course, down from 254,698 in 2010 to just 53,093 in 2016. This drop is due to Department for Education performance tables, which no longer taking account of results in short courses. The short course is delivered at GCSE standard but covers half the content of a full course and is therefore worth half a GCSE. Changes in entries for short courses have a disproportionately significant impact on RS than on other subjects: almost two thirds of all short course GCSEs taken in England and Wales are in RS.

The impact of the exclusion of short course GCSEs from performance tables in England can be seen by the stark contrast with figures for Wales where performance tables are calculated according to a different formula. In Wales there were 18,206 entries for the GCSE short course this year, up 2.3% on last year and only slightly down on the 19,683

entries in 2010.

The decline in entries for the short course GCSE in RS means that despite the positive news of increasing numbers of pupils taking the full course GCSE, there are now more than 100,000 fewer pupils in England taking a GCSE (either full or short) in RS than there were in 2010. This represents a decline of 23.6% over six years. The Religious Education Council of England and Wales (REC) and the National Association of Teachers of RE (NATRE) are concerned that there appears to have been such an increase in pupils who are not being given the opportunity to study Religious Education at key stage 4. The findings of the RE for Real report (2015) showed that young people think that learning about religion and belief is becoming increasingly relevant, and yet a growing number of schools seem to be failing in their duty to provide this entitlement to their students. It has been encouraging to hear that OfSTED intends to pay closer attention to whether schools are meeting their requirements to teach Religious Education. These figures show how important it will be for OfSTED to do this.

The key outcomes for Religious Education in England and Wales at KS4 in 2016 are as follows:

- There were 284,057 entries for the full course in GCSE RS, a rise of 0.1% from 2015 (283,756)
- There were 71,299 entries for the short course in GCSE RS, a decline of 17.7% from 2015 (86,679)
- There were 355,356 entries for GCSE RS (combined short and full courses), a decline of 4.1% from 2015 (370,435)
- In 2014 there were 1,197 schools making no entries for any RS qualification; a rise from 268 in 2010. This echoes research by NATRE (published in January 2016) that found that 30% of community schools and 40% of academies without a religious character are still failing to meet their legal or contractual agreements to provide religious education for this key age group.
- 29.2% of entries for the full course in GCSE RS were awarded an A or an A*
- 19.2% of entries for the short course in GCSE RS were awarded an A or an A*

GCSE RS entries – England and Wales (2013-2016)

	2013	2014	2015	2016	% change 2015 to 2016	% change 2010 to 2016
Full Course (England)	239,409	258,067	271,917	271,973	0.0%	59.3%
Short Course (England)	150,621	99,661	68,890	53,093	-22.9%	-79.2%
Combined entries (England)	390,030	357,728	340,807	325,066	-4.6%	-23.6%
Full Course (Wales)	11,654	11,427	11,839	12,084	2.1%	98.1%
Short Course (Wales)	18,467	18,820	17,789	18,206	2.3%	-7.5%
Combined entries (Wales)	30,121	30,247	29,628	30,290	2.2%	17.5%
Full Course (England and Wales)	251,063	269,494	283,756	284,057	0.1%	60.6%
Short Course (England and Wales)	169,088	118,481	86,679	71,299	-17.7%	-74.0%
Combined entries (England and Wales)	420,151	387,975	370,435	355,356	-4.1%	-21.3%

Source: <http://www.jcq.org.uk/examination-results/gcses>

Appendix C

Detailed extra information on summer 2016 public exams in Lewisham Schools

GCSE

Table 1 (+Graph) RS GCSE A* - C performance results compared to national

	2013	2014	2015	2016
A* - C Lewisham	72.9%	56.5%	69.3%	69.9%
Gap	0.8%	14.8%	2.7%	1.4%
A* - C National	72.1%	71.3%	72.0%	71.3%

2.3 Religious Studies GCSE A* - G performance is in line with 2015 performance and is below national performance by 1.5% points, which is consistent with the A* - C outcome. Over the period tabled, we have declined very slightly, but the national has remained relatively constant.

Table 2 Religious Studies GCSE A* - G results compared to national

	2013	2014	2015	2016
A* - G Lewisham	97.7%	95.6%	97.3%	96.5%
Gap	0.6%	2.4%	1.0%	1.5%
A* - G National	98.3%	98.0%	98.3%	98.0%

2.4 Religious studies GCSE A* - C outperformed most similar subjects in 2016, it is however trending slightly downwards over the duration indicated below by 3% points. Geography and History have only slightly improved over the same period, but in 2016 are 5% points or more below RS Performance.

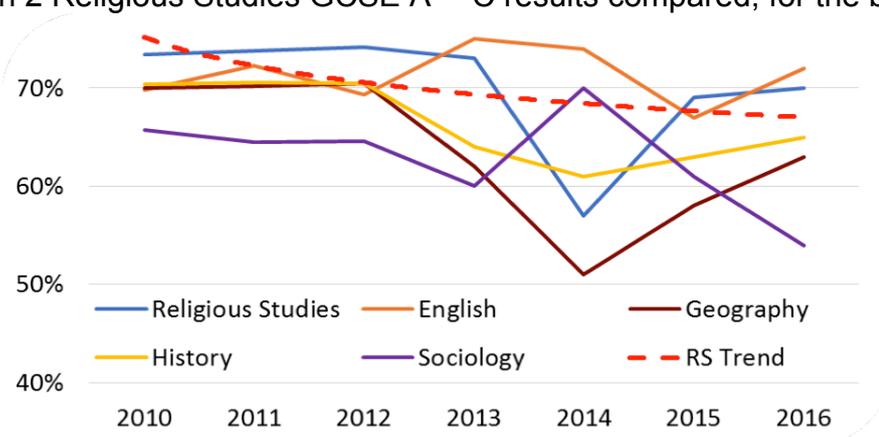
Table 3 Religious Studies GCSE A* - C results compared, for the borough

	2013	2014	2015	2016
Religious Studies (Trend)	73%	57%	69%	70%
English	75%	74%	67%	72%

Geography	62%	51%	58%	63%
History	64%	61%	63%	65%
Sociology	60%	70%	61%	54%

2.5 Religious studies GCSE A* - C has outperformed most similar subjects in the last 7 years, with the exception of a dip in 2014 and will also have a better trend than most similar others.

Graph 2 Religious Studies GCSE A* - C results compared, for the borough



2.6 In 2016 GCSE A* - C a single secondary Haberdashers' Aske's Knights Academy, did not enter any pupils for full course GCSE Religious Studies. In 2015 the same school entered 19 pupils into GCSE Religious Studies; 53% of those pupils achieved at least a C full GCSE pass. No pupils at the three special schools were entered into GCSE Religious Studies.

Table 4 Religious Studies GCSE A* - C results by school 2013-2016

School	2013	2014	2015	2016*	Trend	No of entries in 2016	Entries as % of total cohort
Bonus Pastor Catholic College	66%	67%	77%	77%		148	100%
Forest Hill School	88%	37%	57%	52%		218	99%
Prendergast School	85%	82%	77%	69%		116	98%
Prendergast Ladywell School	56%	67%	65%	90%		21	13%
Prendergast Vale School				66%		102	99%
Sedgehill School	81%	62%	78%	66%		234	98%
Trinity Church of England School	68%	52%	73%	69%		109	99%
St Matthew Academy	59%	45%	51%	57%		135	88%
Sydenham School	79%	50%	79%	91%		202	95%
Deptford Green School	85%	65%	76%	80%		135	75%
Conisborough College	58%	40%	57%	71%		83	53%
Haberdashers' Aske's Knights Academ	74%	64%	53%	-		0	0
Haberdashers' Aske's Hatcham Colleg	62%	50%	92%	89%		9	5%
Addey and Stanhope School	97%	100%	-	70%		47	39%
Lewisham	72%	57%	69%	70%		1559	67%
National	72%	71%	72%	71%		284,057	50%

* **Red** under 2016 heading is declined performance from 2015 and **Green** improved

2.7 Lewisham's entries as a percentage of the total cohort has increased every year. Entries also show RS in Lewisham as being significantly more popular than against the National figures, by a huge 16.4% points this year (17.5% last year) and averaging 15.6% points above the national average over 2013-2016.

Where the RS percentage of total cohort is higher than 98% for each school, their performance has declined from 2015 to 2016. However, where the percentage of total cohort is lower than 98% for each school they have improved in performance from 2015, with the exception of Haberdashers' Aske's Hatcham College.

Table 5 (+Graph) RS National and Lewisham Entries % of Total Cohorts 2013-2016

	2013	2014	2015	2016
Lewisham	54.5%	62.2%	66.7%	66.8%
Gap	12.6%	16.0%	17.5%	16.4%
National	41.9%	46.2%	49.2%	50.4%

2.8 This table verifies all the numbers of GCSE Religious Studies pupils from each school over time. Here in most cases you can see increasing numbers entered for RS, which is validation of Table 6. Year to year the RS Entered cohort has increased against the total (All) cohorts.

Table 6 Religious Studies Pupils Entered, Passed A*-C and Total Cohorts 2013-2016

School	2013			2014			2015			2016		
	Entry	Passed	All	Entry	Passed	All	Entry	Passed	All	Entry	Passed	All
Bonus Pastor Catholic College	142	94	152	149	100	150	141	110	141	148	114	148
Forest Hill	99	87	224	231	84	232	214	123	217	218	113	221
Prendergast	110	93	115	100	82	105	107	82	109	116	80	118
Prendergast Ladywell	128	70	137	178	119	190	190	122	191	21	19	160
Prendergast Vale										102	67	103
Sedgehill	261	209	277	233	139	235	220	166	229	234	154	238
Trinity Church of England	69	47	97	89	44	96	82	59	88	109	75	110
St Matthew Academy	131	77	136	141	64	143	126	65	141	135	77	154
Sydenham				29	14	225	188	148	211	202	183	213
Deptford Green	183	149	228	57	37	151	84	64	112	135	108	180
Conisborough College	73	42	161	84	31	130	28	18	154	83	59	158
Haberdashers' Knights Academy	27	20	199	47	30	199	19	10	173	0	0	0
Haberdashers' Hatcham College	26	16	207	10	5	196	12	11	203	9	8	196
Addey and Stanhope	30	29	118	28	28	119				47	33	119
Lewisham	1279	933	2349	1376	777	2213	1411	978	2115	1559	1090	2335
National ,000s	251	181	571	269	192	558	284	204	553	284	202	540

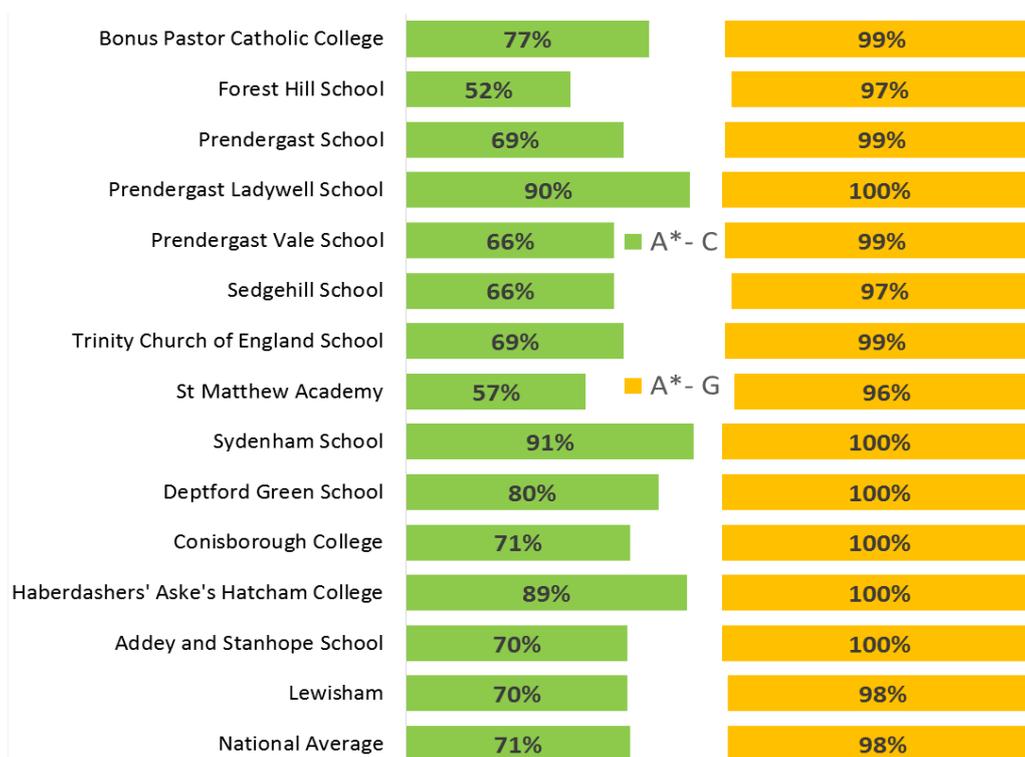
2.9 Schools' GCSE A* - G performance is fairly constant at around 98%, though this year 2 schools fell below that and another remained below. Noteworthy here is 6 schools have 100% and half of them were 100% last year also.

Table 7 Religious Studies GCSE A* - G results by school 2013-2016

School	2013	2014	2015	2016	Trend	No of entries in 2016	Entries as % of total cohort
Bonus Pastor Catholic College	99%	99%	99%	99%	—	148	100%
Forest Hill School	100%	95%	94%	97%	∩	218	99%
Prendergast School	100%	97%	100%	99%	∩	116	98%
Prendergast Ladywell School	97%	99%	98%	100%	∩	21	13%
Prendergast Vale School				99%	—	102	99%
Sedgehill School	98%	98%	99%	97%	∩	234	98%
Trinity Church of England School	100%	92%	98%	99%	∩	109	99%
St Matthew Academy	99%	97%	99%	96%	∩	135	88%
Sydenham School	99%	100%	99%	100%	∩	202	95%
Deptford Green School	99%	98%	100%	100%	∩	135	75%
Conisborough College	99%	99%	100%	100%	∩	83	53%
Haberdashers' Aske's Knights Academ	100%	98%	100%	0	∩	0	0
Haberdashers' Aske's Hatcham Colleg	100%	100%	100%	100%	—	9	5%
Addey and Stanhope School	100%	100%	-	100%	∩	47	39%
Lewisham	98%	97%	98%	98%	∩	1559	67%
National	98%	98%	98%	98%	—	284,057	50%

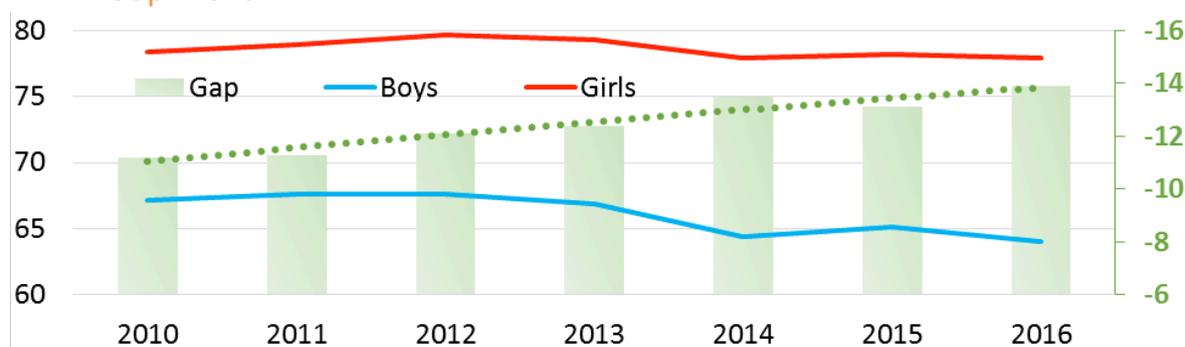
2.10 The table below shows the A* - C and A* - G difference for each school, and shows Lewisham and National RS GCSE Outcome

Graph 3 Religious Studies GCSE A* - C and A* - G results by school



2.11 Table 8 shows the contextual breakdown for RS GCSE results. The first thing that stands out here is the significant number of girls achieving an A*-C grade, as they represent 58% of the achievers. They have also significantly outperformed the boys by 22% points with an 82% reaching C or better. The boys here are also 10% points under the Lewisham & National average, whereas the girls are 10% points above! The following graph shows the slight decline in performance over time, but also shows the gap increasing between the genders, where the boy's performance gap (right axis below) starts at around 11% points below the girls, by 2016 it is nearly 14% point below.

Graph 4 Religious Studies GCSE A* - C results by Gender since 2010 including Gap with Gap Trend



2.12 Pupil Premium also has a large gap between those that are Pupil Premium and those that are not, but this is on par with historic national outcomes.

2.13 Special Educational needs pupils are significantly underperforming to the Non-SEN, but compared with National average SEN outcomes they appear to be likely to outperform in 2016.

Table 8 Religious Studies GCSE A* - C results in 2016 by contextual factors

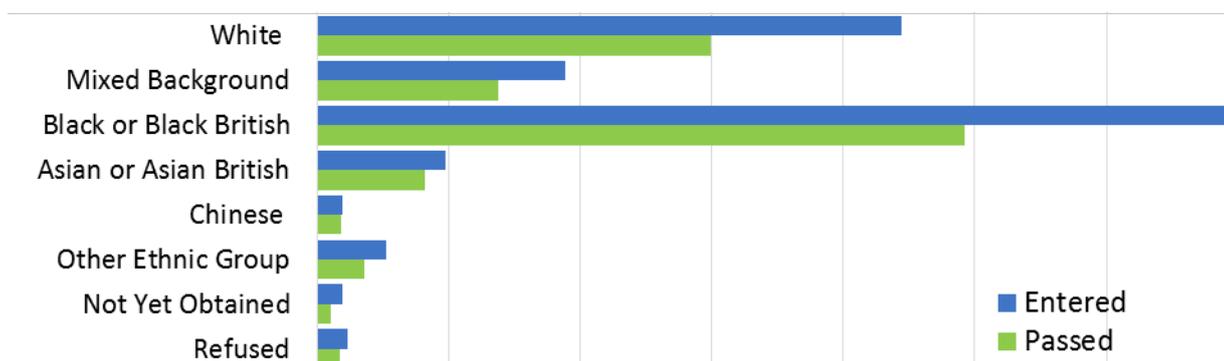
Context		Achieved	%	Entries
Gender	Female	633	82%	772
	Male	459	60%	762
Pupil Premium	Not Pupil Premium	680	75%	906
	Pupil Premium	412	66%	628
SEN	No Special Needs	989	77%	1278
	Special Needs	103	40%	256
First Language	English	770	70%	1097
	Not English	322	74%	437

2.14 Ethnically the Asian and Chinese pupils' results are way above the average, but they only represent a small portion of the cohort. Black and Black & White Caribbean/African represent the majority of the Lewisham Cohort and here the African/mixed are 6% points above Lewisham average and Caribbean/Mixed are 6% point below. White British pupils are 3% points below our average, with their numbers only representing 18% of the Lewisham cohort

Table 9 Religious Studies GCSE A* - C results in 2016 by Ethnicity Main Categories

Ethnicity	GCSE Passed	%	Entered
White	299 	67%	444 
Mixed Background	138 	73%	188 
Black or Black British	492 	71%	692 
Asian or Asian British	82 	85%	97 
Chinese	18 	95%	19 
Other Ethnic Group	36 	69%	52 
Not Yet Obtained	10 	53%	19 
Refused	17 	74%	23 

Graph 5 Main Ethnic Categories of GCSE Religious Studies Passed and Entered.



3 Religious Studies Short Courses

3.1 Whilst nationally performance for short courses has remained fairly constant, the performance of pupils in Lewisham taking short courses in Religious Studies has dropped dramatically in 2016, declining 51% from 2015 and 58% since 2013.

Table 10 Religious Studies GCSE Short Courses A* - C results by school 2013-2016

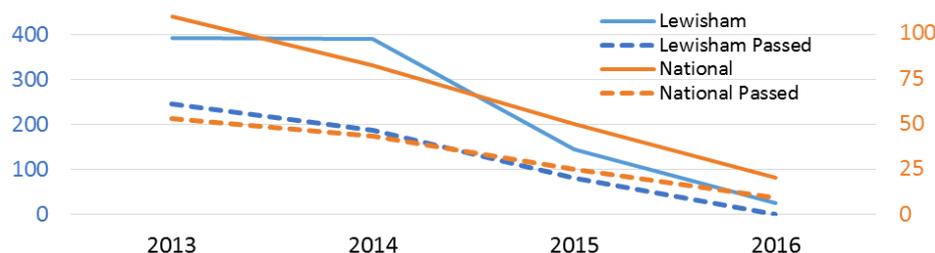
School	2013	2014	2015	2016	No of entries in 2016	Entries as % of total cohort
Conisborough College	14%	13%	61%			
St Matthew Academy	0%		0%	5%	19	12%
Trinity Church of England School	18%	0%	50%			
Addey and Stanhope School	70%	48%	60%	0%	2	2%
Prendergast School	100%					
Deptford Green School	0%					
Sedgehill School			0%			
Sydenham School	80%	72%	100%	0%	5	2%
Lewisham	62%	48%	55%	4%	26	1%
National	48%	52%	51%	48%	71,299	4%

3.2 The numbers of pupils in Lewisham taking short courses in Religious Studies has also dropped significantly in 2016, declining 82% from 2015 and 93% since 2013. Nationally the numbers on short courses has also declined, 18% since 2015 and 58% since 2013.

Table 11 Religious Studies GCSE Short Courses Cohorts results by school 2013-2016

School	2013			2014			2015			2016		
	Entry	Passed	All	Entry	Passed	All	Entry	Passed	All	Entry	Passed	All
Conisborough College	64	9	161	120	15	130	41	25	154			
St Matthew Academy	3	0	136				12	0	141	19	1	154
Trinity C of E	22	4	67	3	0	96	2	1	88			
Addey and Stanhope	70	49	118	85	41	119	88	53	111	2	0	119
Prendergast	1	1	115									
Deptford Green	6	0	228									
Sedgehill							1	0	229			
Sydenham	228	182	246	184	132	225	1	1	211	5	0	213
Lewisham	394	245	2346	391	187	2213	145	80	2115	26	1	2335
National ,000s	109	53	571	82	43	558	50	25	553	20	9	540

Graph 6 Religious Studies GCSE Short Courses Cohorts 2013-2016



4. A Level Religious Studies

4.1 Nationally, the number of A Level entries has risen steadily between 2013 and 2016 and results are broadly consistent year on year, though A*-A has declined slightly by 2% points over time.

Table 12 National and local entries in A Level Religious Studies 2013-2016

	2013	2014	2015	2016
National	19,171	19,841	21,577	22,079
Lewisham	98	48	58	122

Table 13 National performance (A* - A, A* - B and A* - E) 2013-2016

	candidates	A* - A	A* - B	A* - E
2013	19,171	26%	55%	99%
2014	19,838	26%	54%	99%
2015	21,277	24%	55%	99%
2016	22,079	24%	54%	99%

4.2 Two schools bettered the National Average attainment A*-B, but three bettered the LA Average. A*-E results are virtually identical year to year, though into 2016 Lewisham dropped 1% point

Table 14 A Level A* - B results

School	2013	2014	2015	2016	No entries 2016
Christ the King Sixth College	-	-	38%	21%	67
Forest Hill School	7%	25%	15%	33%	9
Haberdashers' Hatcham College	25%	67%	100%	67%	3
Sydenham School	60%	43%	39%	41%	17
Prendergast School	57%	67%	33%	74%	19
Sedgehill School	-	33%	20%	29%	7
Lewisham	37%	42%	28%	34%	122
National	55%	54%	55%	54%	22,079

Table 15 A Level A* - E results

School	2013	2014	2015	2016	No entries 2016
Christ the King Sixth College	-	-	97%	97%	67
Forest Hill School	100%	100%	100%	100%	9
Haberdashers' Hatcham College	100%	100%	100%	100%	3
Sydenham School	100%	100%	100%	100%	17
Prendergast School	100%	100%	100%	100%	19
Sedgehill School	-	100%	100%	86%	7
Lewisham	100%	100%	100%	99%	122
National	99%	99%	99%	99%	22,079

Appendix D

The Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)

The Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) is a statutory body that advises the Council on the provision of religious education and collective worship.

A SACRE is made up of four groups in order to bring a wide range of interests and talents to this work, and to reflect local faith communities.

These groups are:

- Group A: Christian denominations (other than the Church of England) and representatives from a wide range of other faiths and beliefs representative of Lewisham's communities.
- Group B: The Church of England.
- Group C: Teachers' professional associations.
- Group D: Elected members of the Council, with representatives of the Executive Director for Children and Young People and governors of Lewisham schools.

Members of these groups are nominated by their respective organisations.

What the SACRE does

Lewisham SACRE meets approximately four to five times annually.

The meetings are often held in a local place of worship in order to enhance members' knowledge and understanding of faiths other than their own.

At the meetings, members discuss issues relating to religious education in Lewisham schools and other educational establishments and monitor the delivery of that education.

We develop ways of supporting schools in delivering the religious education syllabus. We develop and maintain links with local and national faith communities.

SACRE also produces advice to support schools at times of local, national or international difficulty.

We welcome contact and visits from representatives of interested organisations or individuals to our meetings.

Appendix E

Distribution of this report

The report is made available electronically to:

The Department for Education

The National Association of SACREs (NASACRE)

Lewisham SACRE members

Lewisham Council, Elected Members

Executive Director of Children and Young People

Teaching Unions in Lewisham

SACRE Nominating Bodies

The main Faith Groups in Lewisham,
including Catford & Bromley Synagogue, & Lewisham Islamic Centre

Ecumenical Borough Deans

All schools in Lewisham

LeSoCo

Goldsmiths' College (University of London)

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